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Architecture Partnership Selected for New Woodland Courthouse *California Firm and National Firm Will Partner*

San Francisco—Established Northern California architecture firm Dreyfuss & Blackford Architects and the Denver-based, nationally known firm of Fentress Architects have been selected to design the new Woodland Courthouse, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) announced today. The proposed project, which is in the earliest phase of site selection, will provide a new courthouse in downtown Woodland with a minimum of 14 courtrooms, replacing seven unsafe and overcrowded facilities currently used by the Superior Court of Yolo County.

This project, with an estimated total cost of \$173 million, was ranked as an “immediate need” in the judicial branch’s capital-outlay plan and is among the judicial branch’s highest-priority infrastructure projects.

“We are very pleased with this selection of an architecture partnership that will bring both deep California heritage and world-class expertise to our new courthouse,” said Presiding Judge Dave Rosenberg, Superior Court of Yolo County. “This project is not only critically needed by our court, but it will be an important addition to Woodland’s civic architecture and an infrastructure effort that will provide economic benefits to the community for years to come. This expertise will help us ensure that we get it right.”

The new Woodland courthouse project is in the final stages of site selection. A preferred site, a city block bounded by Main, Fifth, and Sixth Streets, and Lincoln Avenue, received state approval in August; alternate sites are being evaluated. Once engaged, the architecture team can begin preliminary space programming and massing studies in conjunction with the required environmental document. Final architectural design will be completed once site acquisition is approved by the State Public Works Board. Site selection and acquisition can take a year or more depending on the complexities surrounding the location and environmental process.

The Sacramento-based firm of Dreyfuss & Blackford Architects has nearly 60 years of experience in Northern California, including court buildings in Placer, Butte, and Napa counties. Denver-based Fentress Architects specializes in public buildings and has extensive California experience, including the newly opened San Joaquin County Administration Building in Stockton, an addition to Sacramento's City Hall, and an expansion to the Pasadena Convention Center. Both firms have extensive experience in sustainable design.

(more)

The new Woodland courthouse is among the first of 41 projects to be funded by Senate Bill 1407, which finances critically needed courthouse construction, renovation, and repair through a portion of judicial branch fees, fines, and penalties.

More information about the project is at:

www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/projects_yolo.htm

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